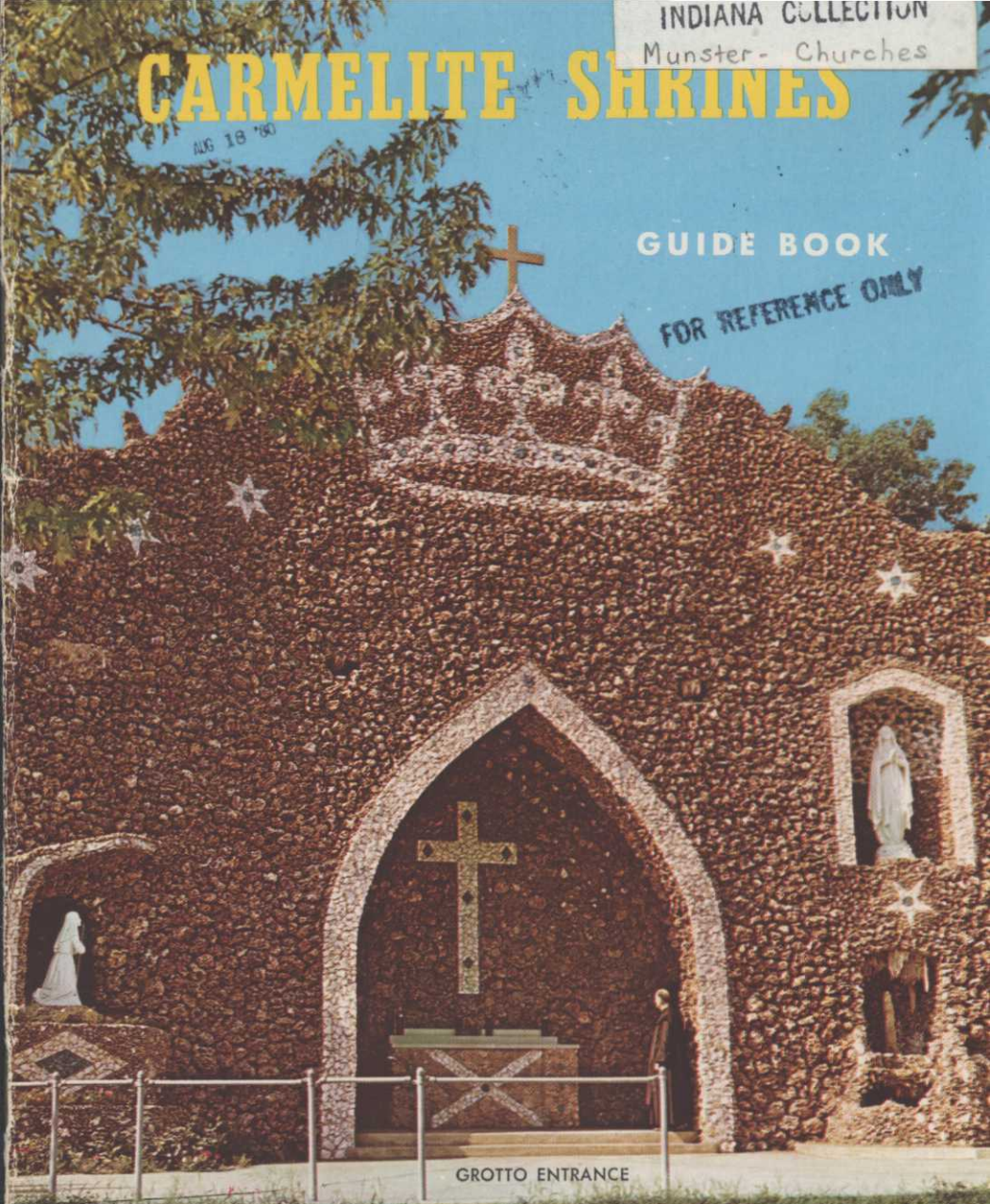
INDIANA COLLECTION
Munster - Churches

CARMELITE SHRINES

AUG 18 '80

GUIDE BOOK

FOR REFERENCE ONLY



GROTTO ENTRANCE

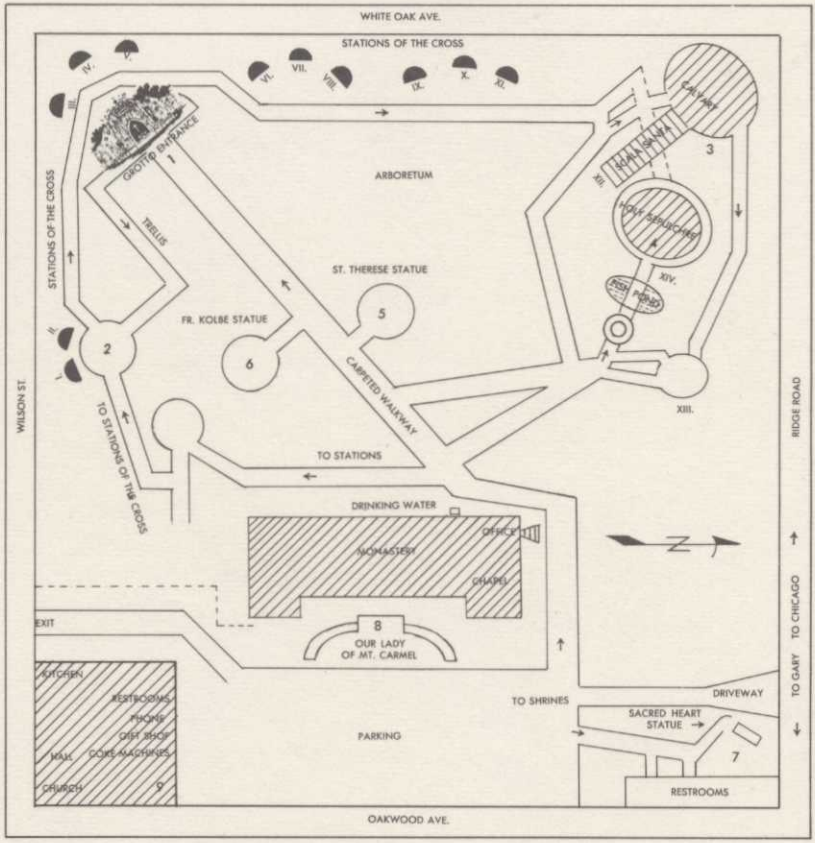
MUNSTER, INDIANA

CARMELITE SHRINES

1628 RIDGE ROAD — MUNSTER, INDIANA 46321 — PHONE: (219) 838-5050

LOCATION MAP

(when touring follow numbers 1 — 9)



INFORMATION:

MASSES: SUNDAY: 9:00 (Polish) 10:30 (English)
WEEKDAYS: 5:55 A.M.

SHRINES' INNER CHAPELS OPEN:
SUNDAY: 1:00—6:00 — WEEKDAYS: on request

OFFICE: Daily: 9:00 — 6:00

DAYS OF RECOLLECTION:
For organizations & groups only. Make reservation several months in advance.

Year's main CELEBRATIONS:

1. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on Sunday in mid-July.
2. St. Therese on Sunday, end of September, beginning of October.

CUM PERMISSU SUPERIORUM
NIHIL OBSTAT: J.A. CORIDEN, J.C.D., CENSOR DEP.
IMPRIMATUR: I ANDREW G. GRUTKA, BISHOP OF GARY, ED. III—MCMLXXVI

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Carmelite Shrines! We hope you will enjoy their beauty, as well as the charm of the surrounding monastery garden with its unusual trees and shrubbery.

In the Shrines you will find samples of GOD-created beauty collected from all parts of the world in the form of crystals and colorful rocks, some of which come alive with color upon being exposed to ultraviolet rays. All are "the work of His fingers" (Psalm 8) and mirror the splendor of His own beauty.

Combined with these superb and unusual specimens of natural wonder is the contribution of MAN seeking expression of the beautiful in the exquisite artistry of one hundred marble sculptures, each of which conveys a meaningful religious message to you.

We trust this two-fold presentation of beauty will make your visit an inspiring and moving experience.

The Shrines represent an expression of people's admiration and gratitude for Christ's redeeming Passion and His continuous concern for the salvation of mankind — as well as for the precious gift coming from His loving Heart at Calvary that prompted Him to utter with parting lips: "Behold your Mother!" (John 19, 27.)

Names of grateful Christians have been inscribed on bronze plaques on the walls of our Shrines. Thus their generous offering is recognized as a testimonial to supernatural values. They are not wealthy people. The majority of them have pledged one hundred dollars, payable in three-dollar monthly installments, and are still meeting that obligation; but they unhesitatingly do this to express their gratitude or perhaps to remember a loved one. If you wish to similarly express your sentiment, you may join these ranks and have your name placed for posterity on the FOUNDERS plaques.

Instrumental in the construction of these Shrines were the Discalced (unshod; reformed by St. Teresa of Avila) Carmelites who, after serving under allied command during World War II in the Free Polish Army, came to these shores in quest of liberty and the opportunity to spiritually fill the needs of their conationals and the American people. All of them were not fortunate enough to come directly to America, however, for some first had to face that terrible experience of deportation to Siberia. It was in a small home in Hammond, Indiana that they first established themselves in 1950; however, two years later they moved to their present location in Munster.

Each day these Carmelite monks, now numbering twelve, offer several hours of common prayer beginning at 5:30 a.m. Their intentions include the needy, sinning mankind, their benefactors and those living and deceased recommended to their prayerful remembrance.

Modern Christian charity necessarily implies that we feed hungry nations. The Carmelite monks, will attempt to provide for another form of hunger: they would like to sustain the souls of those visitors which hunger for deeper faith, for hope and strength.

Today these Shrines are listed in all tourist guides and attract visitors from many parts of the world. Many families escort their friends here for a spiritual uplift. Hundreds of organizations annually retire here for a day of recollection, to find inspiration and encouragement.

The Shrines are open to organizations at any time by appointment; please ask for "Request Forms" in advance if tour, services or meals are requested. The Shrines are open to individuals every SUNDAY afternoon from 1:00 to 6:00 except snowy Winter months; on WEEKDAYS on request at the Monastery office or by phone: (219) 838-5050.

Individuals desirous of visiting the Shrines may also join organizations on retreat. The organizational conducted tours of the Shrines usually commence at 1:00 p.m. and continue for two hours with a fifteen-minute intermission. In the course of a tour, in addition to religious themes, names of about one hundred trees, shrubs, flowers and rocks are furnished to make people more aware of God's beauty in nature and more appreciative and knowledgeable of His gifts. This aspect of the tour makes it quite interesting and instructive too! Conducted tours for organizations are requested almost every Sunday of the warm seasons, as well as on many weekdays.

TOURING THE SHRINES . . .

You may use the Shrine Location Map on the inside front cover of this booklet. It will guide you from the Grotto Shrine (marked with number 1) to the Stations of the Cross (number 2) with the large ones marked 3 and 4. Then you will see the Shrines of St. Therese (number 5) and Bl. Maximilian Kolbe (number 6), the statues of the Sacred Heart (number 7) and of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (number 8). Your final point of interest will be the new church (number 9), the gift shop and other facilities.

We suggest that our non-Catholic Christian friends commence their tour at the Stations of the Cross (Number 2) and conclude at the Grotto Shrine (Number 1). As they contemplate the Shrines of Christ, they will come to realize how much we, as Christians, have in common through our love and admiration for the divine Master. Finally, at the Grotto they will see how the Catholics attempt to emulate Christ in His love for His Mother.

THE GROTTO

(number 1 on Location Map)

The Grotto is dedicated to the Chosen One, who was hailed so sublimely: "Full of grace". This angelic salutation echoes Heaven's own admiration for the most beautiful of all God's creatures, Mary, our Savior's mother. "Behold your Mother!" — these three divine words uttered on Calvary, committed us to her motherly care; unfailingly, down through the ages, her children, good or bad, have experienced her solicitous protection for which they plead in their daily prayers.

In 1954, during the first Marian Year in our Church's history, some grateful hearts conceived the idea of erecting this "Monument of Gratitude".

Many years of work and searching for the most beautiful materials have gone into this rockwork to honor Mary's spiritual beauty with nature's beauty.

A crown of white barite stone on the Grotto's facade reminds us of St. John's vision:

". . . And a great sign appeared in heaven:
A woman clothed with the sun,
And the moon under her feet,
And on her head a Crown of Twelve Stars . . ."
Apocalypse, 12, 1.

St. Bernadette prayerfully directs her attention towards Mary Immaculate. As at Lourdes, a stream of water bubbles from beneath the Blessed Virgin's feet. In our Grotto this water flows from stalactites to a large stalagmite which formed in a natural cave. Scientists tell us that six thousand years are required to add one cubic inch to a stalagmite's growth. How unimpressive is our life span! "Of a few hand palms" (Psalm 38) is the number of our years.

The outer and inner walls of the Grotto are covered with two hundred fifty tons of sponge rock, a quartz formation from a strip mine in the Ozark Mountains.

The altar at the entrance to the Grotto's inner chapels is used for celebrating Mass when large crowds so necessitate. One of these occasions is the feastday of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in mid-July when thousands of Mary devotees gather together at these Shrines. Similarly, quite popular is the end-of-September celebration in honor of St. Theresa, the "Littie Flower", with the blessing of roses.

An inlay of white barite forming the cross of St. Andrew is clearly visible on the stone altar. Above the altar a large mosaic portrays Adam and Eve who, after losing paradise are faced with the sad consequence of their rebellion, that is, hard toil: "Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to thee" (Genesis 3, 18). In despair, they fall down, crying and in their dream recall the great promise made by God in His goodness when punishing them: that one day a woman and her seed (obviously Mary and Her divine Son) will crush the serpent's head (the devil's dominion) and again reconcile man with God and bring him into an eternal paradise.

ST. ANN'S CHAPEL

(nr. 1 cd.)

To the right of the altar we enter the chapel of St. Ann. The statue represents this exemplary mother, teaching her daughter, Mary, the most important lesson of life, the knowledge of God and true piety. This chapel has become a special place of prayer and petition for graces pertaining to motherhood and the care of children.

The saint rests upon a pedestal ornamented with the beautiful chrysocolla stone, its natural blue color in vivid contrast to the white barite rock. In order to present effectively the gem-like stones in a proper setting, natural light has been excluded from all these cavernous chapels. Special lighting plays upon the rock formations and crystals acquired from museums and collections all over the world.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHAPEL

(nr. 1 cd.)

In the adjoining chapel, St. Joseph is venerated as patron saint of the family, of a happy death — "in the arms of Jesus and Mary", like his own passing on — and under the special title, "St. Joseph the Workman".

Visitors honor the Holy Family's solicitous provider and wonderful example of man's trust in God by offering their prayers and lighting votive lamps. This practice in the Grotto chapels honors God through His saints and is in keeping with the Old Testament's venerable custom of burnt sacrifice.

Gentle St. Joseph, carved in Italy of white marble, stands on a base covered with plates of sparkling druse quartz and white barite, both minerals from Missouri. The blue chrysocolla comes from a copper center in Arizona.

The walls are embellished with clusters of glassy quartz crystals, blue fluorite, yellowish dog-tooth calcite, pinkish dolomite with triangles of chalcopyrite and a plate of translucent rose quartz below, and a silvery specimen of galena, lead ore.

THE INFANT JESUS CHAPEL

(nr. 1 cd.)

The greatest attraction for children is offered in this part of the Grotto. Mothers bring their little ones here to offer a prayer for them and to place them under the protection of the Child Jesus who promised:

"The more you honor me,
The more I will bless you."

The Divine Infant is represented as "The Infant Jesus of Prague". This devotion originated in a Carmelite Monastery in Prague, and later spread all over the world.

Children enjoy hearing descriptions of the many symbolic crystals and rocks placed in this chapel.

First of all, there are, at the feet of the Infant Jesus "marbles" to play with, colorful tumbled agates, among them an intriguing one from Africa, the golden "Tiger Eye", (marked with nr. 1) which changes in color and pattern and follows you when you move from side to side, just as a human eye.

Then there is a semi-precious blue amethyst crystal (2) from South America, a reddish "open heart" Mexican agate (3), an Oregon "Thunder Egg" (4), and a Mexican lace agate (5) — all pretty baubles for the Infant King. Should He be hungry, there is a grayish-brown agate (6) at the left, obviously reminiscent of a familiar food.

Yes! And in the large stones too, lighted on the walls, a child's wonderful imagination can envision food — milk in the white "milky quartz" (7) at the Infant's left hand, honey from the amber "honeycomb calcite" (8), a slice of cheese in the onyx plate (9), the yellow fluorite "popsicles" (10), rock candy in the quartz crystals (11) and a "cinnamon cake" in the dolomite (12). Even cereal for His breakfast! — in the brown barite blade formation (13) resembling "shredded wheat". For dessert He may choose chocolate-covered nuts in the brown barite roses (14) in the chapel's corner, or coconut cookies or grapes in the last quartz plate (15) toward the stairway.

All of these unusual stones, with their God-given beauty, are appealing to the eyes of children, which makes a visit to this chapel a very interesting one.

THE LITANY CHAPEL

(Shrine nr. 1 continues)

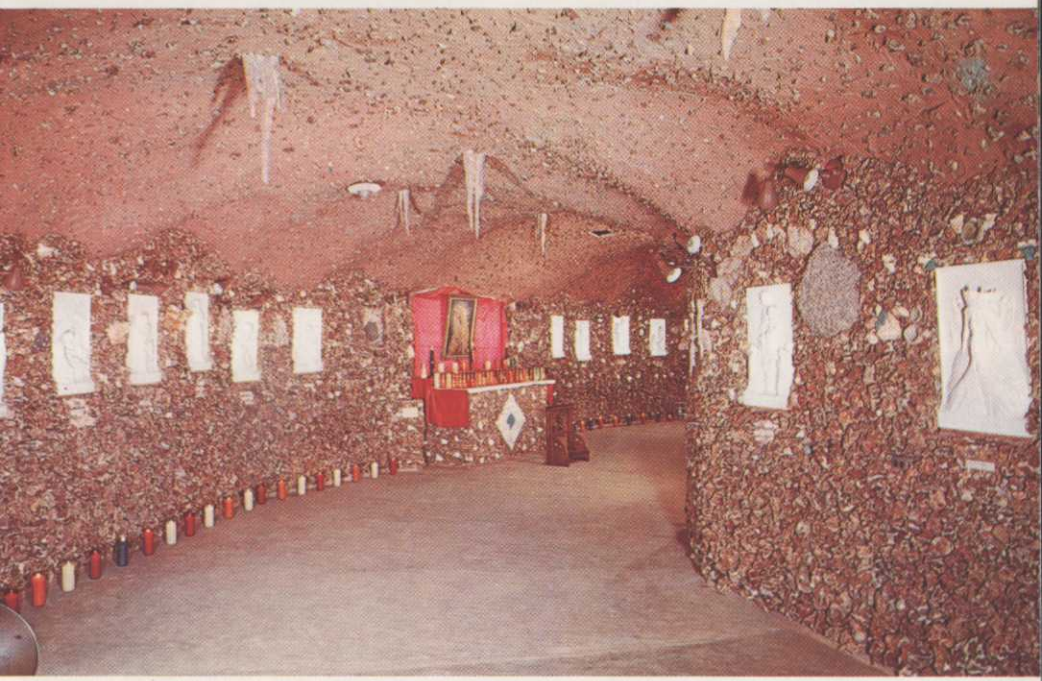
From the Infant Jesus chapel you enter the cavern-like Gallery of the Litany. On these walls are sixty-three high-relief sculptures carved in Italy of the purest, impeccable Carrara marble.

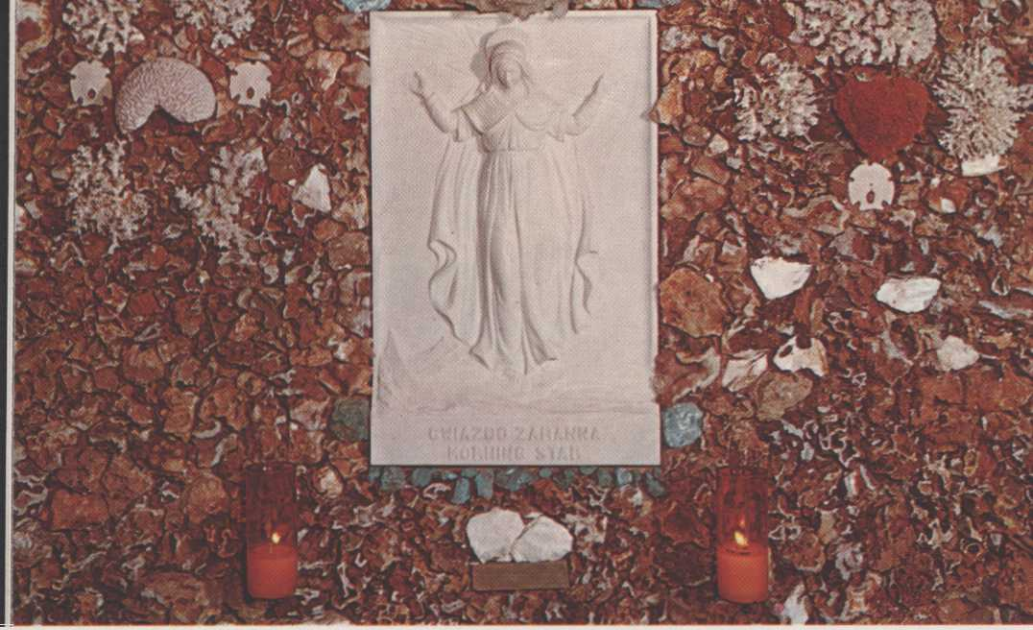
The various designs were sketched here in Munster by the Carmelite Fathers who were the first to conceive the idea of presenting each invocation of the Litany in sculpture, thus making this Grotto a unique shrine the world over.

The Catholic Church uses hundreds of titles to emphasize the Virgin Mary's purity of soul, her charity and her God-given power. Approximately fifty of these titles are used in the Litany of Loretto which is an insistent and vari-form plea for her intercession to God.

The Litany begins with the traditional Greek invocations to God in the Holy Trinity for mercy: "Kyrie eleison". Then the invocations for Mary's intercession begin at the tenth sculpture: "Holy Mary — pray for us".

This carving embodies a lovely thought from an old Polish legend. As the story goes, Mary first heard the Litany from her little Jesus, who, in an outburst of love, addressed His Mother with the sweetest names which were conveyed directly from His innocent heart.





Passing in contemplation before the sculptures as though looking into the numerous and brilliant facets of a magnificent jewel, you will perceive the tenderness of thought and love which Christians, through the ages, have hymned to Mary.

Because of the large number of these sculptures, a special booklet of explanation would be necessary to facilitate your understanding of the many scenes and symbols represented in these unique carvings. Also, a detailed account of the many unusual and interesting rock and coral specimens would necessitate a separate listing.

Our visitors customarily pause at the altar of the Mother of Mercy invoking Her help where religious indifference might exist in the family.

Finally, at the Litany's last invocation, please retrace your steps and return by way of the Infant Jesus Chapel to the steps leading to the upper floors where the Grotto offers its greatest thrill: fluorescent rocks glowing in the darkened Assumption Chapel.

THE ASSUMPTION CHAPEL

(second floor in Shrine nr. 1)

After reaching the second floor, turn to your right and mount the two wooden steps: they afford a little surprise as you look through the "peeping window" on your left. Note also, right above the two steps, the forever-fresh gardenia corsage of crystallic stone, presented to the Blessed Mother.

We invite you to step through the door and on to the veranda where you may rest in the shade of wide-spreading oak trees. Notice, if you will, the little bird houses of crystal rock suspended from the branches.

The large BRONZE PLAQUES on the wall contain our dedication thoughts and sentiments, followed by the memorable names of those people who, by their generosity, have enabled us to erect this MONUMENT OF GRATITUDE. New plaques are being added bearing the names of those who aid in the loving effort of further beautifying this Shrine of Mary.

Upon re-entering the Assumption Chapel, we draw your attention to some very rare rock and crystal formations. In the wall to your right there are the blue "noodle crystals" and, following in order, a large majestic quartz cone, a geode with a light and crystal on the inside, a rock encrusted with tiny irridescent crystals, a pinkish dolomite, a "dog-tooth calcite" and many other fine rock specimens.

In the opposite wall back by the stairway are two brown "deer heads" of honeycomb calcite, a light blue amethyst, a cluster of sharp pointed calcite, and a pretty brown "teddy bear" selenite.

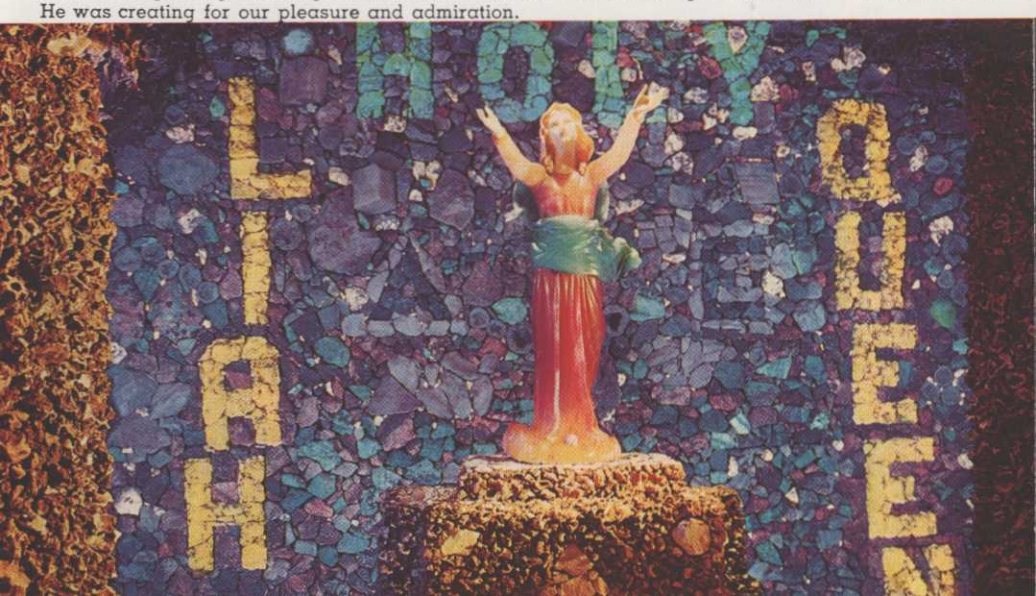
Of special interest, marked by a blinking light, is probably the world's most beautiful fluorite specimen. Its inner structure is plainly visible through the transparent crystals. Continuing on, there is pyrite on galena, a mica rock; and a group of perfect quartz crystals.

The manifestation of God's beauty in nature, presented throughout the Grotto, reaches its peak in the rare and mysterious rocks so uniquely used in the Assumption Altar.

THE FLUORESCENT ALTAR

(In the Assumption Chapel)

Eons and eons ago, when God was creating the marvels of this world, He had specially considered these generations of the twentieth century. According to His foresight and will, we were to have the privilege of being the first ones to see the hidden beauty of FLUORESCENT rocks which He was creating for our pleasure and admiration.



These rocks were to react, with amazingly bright and unusual colors, to a product of our invention, the ultraviolet rays of our quartz lamps. God perceived when mankind was going to learn how to produce these strong but invisible rays, and prepared a wonderful surprise for us.

Thankful for these most beautiful stones in nature, we present them in the world's first fluorescent chapel, to honor God and His most perfect creation, the Mother of our Savior.

Her splendid alabaster statue, which, in 1954, won first prize at the Marian Art Exhibition in Rome, Italy, primarily for its beautiful features and delicately graceful hands, represents the moment of her glorious Assumption into Heaven. Enraptured by the celestial vision masterfully expressed on her radiant face, she elevates her arms in readiness to leave this exile for an everlasting reunion with her divine Son, and to hear again the "Ave" of Heaven's admiration.

This word "Ave" placed in our chapel's wall in blue chrysocolla stone, will disappear when the lights are turned off. To the utter amazement of our visitors, a new word appears in the dark when invisible ultraviolet lights set aglow some of the previously drab looking fluorescent rocks. The word "Holy" appearing in a vivid green color among red glowing rocks, brings forth exclamations of awe and wonder.

Then a longer wave of ultraviolet light is produced and new effects appear on the fluorescent wall. It changes, as if touched by a magician's wand, into a cathedral's most colorful window. The sunlight seems to pierce through the golden letters of the words "Hail — Queen".

The luminescence of these stones is due to excitation by special light. Certain substances absorb the short waves of invisible light, just as a transatlantic broadcast is received on short wave and rebroadcast on longer waves for which our receivers are designed. This phenomenon is known as fluorescence.

If the remittance of the absorbed energy is slow and delayed, we have "phosphorescence" manifested in the glowing of rocks (in the dark) without any stimulation.

In our chapel the very short (2537 Angstrom units, or 254 Nanometers) ultraviolet rays bring forth the brilliant green color of the New Jersey willemite and that of the Mexican opalites. The vivid red springs from the Franklin, N. J. calcite.

The longer (3600 A.U., or 366 Nanometers) ultraviolet rays (the so-called black light) cause a golden radiation of the Canadian scapolite (wernerite) so vivid that at times luminous reaction can be observed on the bystander's dress.

And finally, the phosphorescence can be seen in the Texas and New Mexico calcites, produced by saturation with the shorter wave light.

It is our confident hope that in seeing this new, mysterious kind of beauty, your minds and hearts will be made newly aware of God the Creator, who has prepared in Heaven magnificent splendors beyond the comprehension of the human mind.

OUR LADY OF BRIGHT MOUNTAIN CHAPEL

(3rd floor in Grotto, Shrine nr. 1)

At the head of the stairway to the third floor you will see an Ex-voto, a small picture of Mary, Mother of Mercy, framed in red and gold. During the Second World War this representation of Mary was placed on the field altar on several of Europe's battlefields by a Polish army chaplain. Our Lady's protection brought him safely to America and, when building this Grotto, this Carmelite priest in thanksgiving enshrined his precious possession in this chapel.

Farther in the chapel, at the altar, Our Lady of Czestochowa (Chess-toho-vah) is honored as Queen of Poland. She was officially given this title in 1656 by Poland's King John Casimir. Here she is not far from her domain: soil from all parts of that country is contained in the marble urns on either side. Her regal face is marred by scars inflicted by the enemy invaders of Poland in 1430. The chaplain's military banners are shown in blue and white stone; they have affixed to them a hand holding a torch of freedom like the Statue of Liberty.

On the ceiling a proud, free eagle, with crown and cross, directs his flight toward the Blessed Virgin symbolizing the nation's devotion to their Queen, at whose shrine in Poland two million pilgrims annually worship God.

Opposite the chapel altar, long quartz crystals are reminiscent of the big guns placed on each side of the chaplain's makeshift field altars to lend a kind of solemnity in the absence of usual adornments. The metallic galena cubes in the middle of the wall recall the guns' ammunition!

Here, one is moved to prayerful gratitude for America's freedoms; to petition for the less fortunate nations of the world.

Before going to the upper veranda, the visitors usually note on the walls the thousands of tiny rocks set in place with painstaking assiduity. Looking down from the veranda onto the Grotto entrance platform, to your surprise you become aware of how high you have climbed.

Your visit to the Grotto now completed, you may descend to the main floor. Exiting through the Infant Jesus and Litany Chapels you will notice a stand with view cards and visitor's' registration books. Here you may enter your impressions. Visitors from foreign countries are asked to sign the book specially marked for them.

On the outside, the trellis covered with vines will lead you now to Shrines marked with nr. 2 on your location map; these are the first Stations of the Cross. You may decide to briefly rest on the benches placed for your convenience at the front of the Grotto.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

(nr. 2 on location map)

This special form of devotion arose six hundred years ago in Jerusalem among the Christians who dwelt there, out of veneration for those sacred spots which were sanctified by the sufferings of our Divine Redeemer. The Stations of the Cross represent fourteen stages in Christ's passion and death.

Here on our garden paths you will notice that each little shrine is built differently; the first five are reminiscent of the old Christian chapels of Rome, while the six following are in the simple style of the little roadside chapels found in Poland and neighboring countries.

At the first Station "the Cross of Jerusalem", the white inlay beneath your feet indicates the city where our Redemption was accomplished by Christ's Passion.

We move then from Station to Station with compassion meditating on the details of Christ's physical and spiritual sufferings which He underwent to atone for our sins. We feel that gratitude increases in our hearts, and that we are doing something pleasing to Christ. Does not every artist love people that come to view his masterpiece? Was not Christ's passion, that outpour of His love for us, to the last drop of His blood and the innermost suffering fiber of His human soul, His life's greatest masterpiece?

TWELFTH STATION: CALVARY

(Shrine nr. 3 on Location Map)

The greatest moment in mankind's history: Christ's redeeming death on the Cross, is honored with a very large monument: the Calvary. At the bottom, the statues of a man and woman represent mankind with great trust looking toward the crucified Christ — our only hope for salvation.

The twenty-eight granite steps of the traditional SCALA SANTA (Holy Stairway), leading to the top of Calvary, are not to be walked on. Pious pilgrims, in the ancient spirit of penance, ascend them on their knees, saying a special prayer on each of them to honor Christ's redeeming Passion and to plead for remission of their own and their kinsfolk's sins.

Visitors, to reach the top, find to their left the thirty-three steps by which we honor the thirty-three years Christ spent for us on earth. On the way up, an attentive visitor will notice the Crown of Thorns, made of white barite rock, which encircles the entire Shrine. Even in the railings he will find many symbols, like Judas' silver pieces, soldiers' dice, which challenge his imagination and to his own satisfaction give him a chance to test his knowledge of the details of Christ's Passion.

The Crucifixion group, beautifully cast for us in bronze, makes us reflect on God's goodness and our sinfulness, and prompts us to make proper conclusions and decisions.

On the Shrine's east side we find our way down to the Thirteenth Station (unless we have passed over the visit to Calvary and have taken a short-cut to that Station).

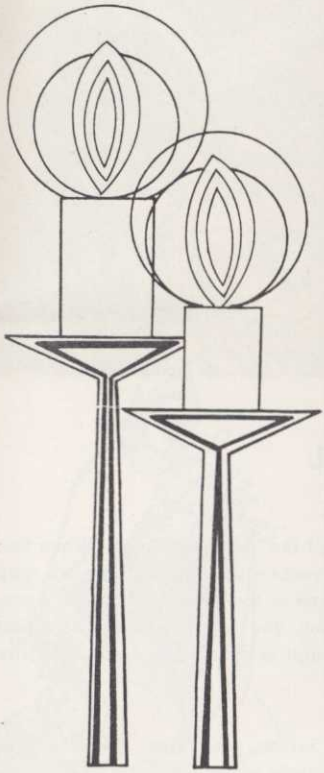
FOURTEENTH STATION: HOLY SEPULCHRE CHAPEL

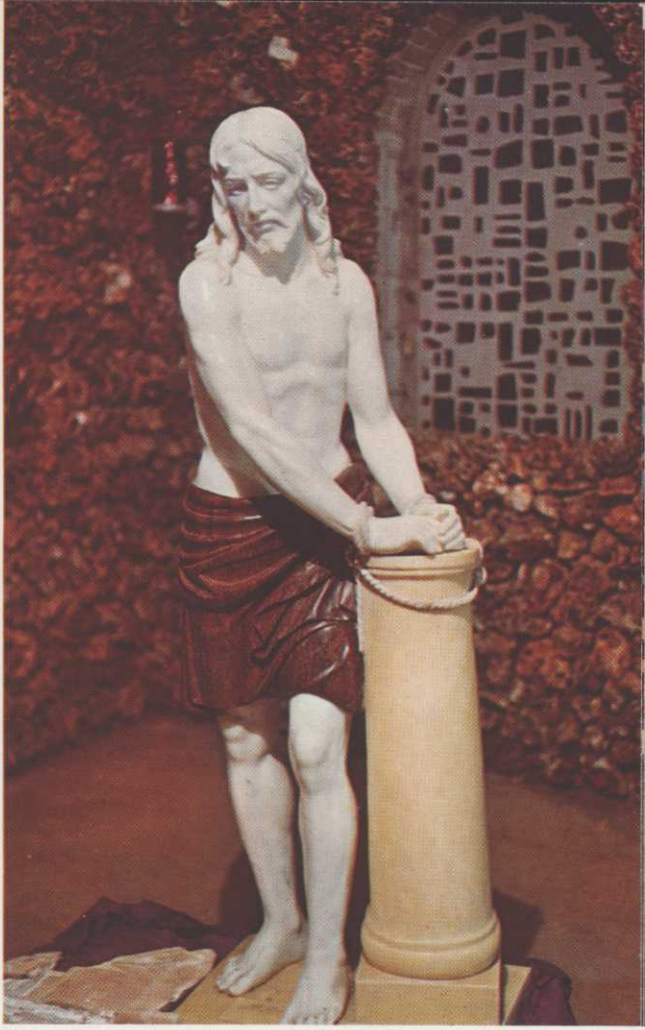
(Shrine nr. 4 on Location Map)

Turning west from Station XIII, we pass over the goldfish pond bridge and descend into the Holy Sepulchre chapel. At the bottom of the ramp two angels, with beautiful outstretched wings, guard the entrance. Mary Magdalene, the faithful converted sinner who knelt at the feet of the dying Christ when all friends deserted Him, also stays on to cry at the tomb of her beloved Master (who will reward her: she will be one of the first to see Him after His Resurrection!).

To your astonishment, a very large chapel unveils underground. The center point is the statue of CHRIST IN TOMB. It rests on a pair of enormous fluorite crystals (one weighing 600 lbs.). Here you complete your meditation on the Passion of Christ.

The sufferings of the greatest of all mothers, Mary, are represented in the large sculptures of the SEVEN DOLORS of our Sorrowful Mother. They start with the somber prediction of Simeon in the temple, and end with the heart-breaking burial of her beloved son, Jesus. Through the protective glass panes you can admire God-created beauty in our crystal collections placed around these very valuable marble sculptures.





FLAGELLATION CHAPEL

(nd. 4 cd)

On the opposite side of the tomb, the FLAGELLATION CHAPEL gives comfort to suffering people who come to realize that there must be value in suffering if Christ has chosen it as a means of our redemption. The secret of our using it profitably, is to accept it with Christian resignation. Please note the details in marble and alabaster on this beautiful statue of the scourged Christ — notable for His facial expression of intense pain.

MEMORIAL CHAPEL

(nr. 4 cd.)

CHRIST RAISING THE DEAD is presented in a side chapel of the Tomb of Christ. When this chapel is darkened, quartz lamps activate very rare fluorescent rocks and with vivid colors they depict the end of the world: the falling sun and moon, and the lava of the earth as it swells open. The Archangels trumpet awakens the dead for the last judgement; you see their hands reaching out of the ground. Christ's prediction is fulfilled: on the skies His sign of victory, the cross "appears from the East to the West".

On the walls of this memorial chapel, names are placed on bronze plaques by families with a prayer asking Christ to raise those people one day and to admit them to His company in a happy eternity.

By the exit of this fluorescent chapel, the words that once appeared on the skies to Emperor Constantine the Great before his victorious battle for Rome in 312, remind us of the same: "In hoc signo † vinces" — "By this sign † thou shalt conquer."

After passing by the FOUNDERS' plaques with the names of generous people helping us to build this Shrine, steps will take you up to the Resurrection window which indicates Christ's victory over death, devil, evil and sin. On the outside, the trellis will direct you towards the Monastery and the rest of the Shrines.

ST. THERESE WITH FATHER

(Shrine nr. 5 on Location Map)

St. Therese is shown here as she tells her father of her desire to enter Carmel. Although he is widowed and has already given three of his children to God, he unselfishly sacrifices his youngest, his "Princess", thus giving us our beloved "Little Flower of Jesus", St. Therese of Lisieux.

All five of his children chose strict religious life. Perhaps one day we will see this great man, together with his saintly wife, elevated to the honors of sainthood.

"...I WAS NEARLY FOURTEEN AND A HALF, AND IT WAS...THE DAY ON WHICH I HAD RESOLVED TO ENTER CARMEL... FATHER WAS SITTING OUT IN THE GARDEN... THERE WAS A LOOK OF HEAVEN ON FATHER'S NOBLE FACE AND I FELT SURE HIS HEART WAS FILLED WITH PEACE. I SAT DOWN BESIDE HIM, NOT SAYING A WORD, BUT THERE WERE TEARS IN MY EYES... THROUGH MY TEARS I TOLD HIM ABOUT CARMEL AND MY LONGING TO ENTER SOON, AND THEN HE TOO BEGAN TO WEEP. BUT NEVER SAID A WORD AGAINST MY VOCATION..."
(ST. THERESE)

FATHER KOLBE SHRINE

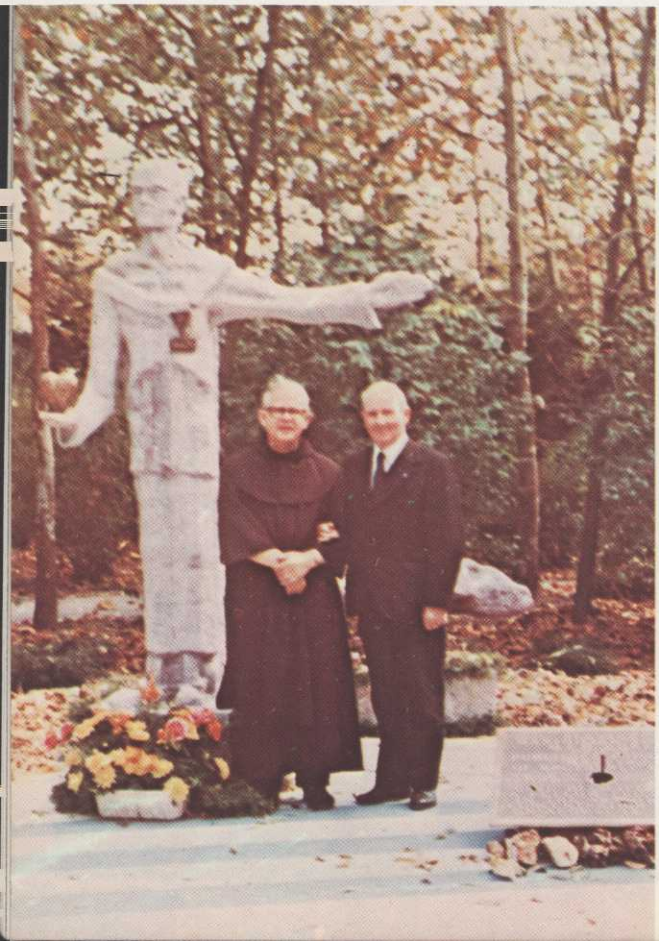
(Shrine nr. 6 on Location Map)

Upon crossing the carpeted walkway, you will discover the statue of Father Maximilian Kolbe, a saint of modern times.

Before his heroic death of self-immolation, because of his devotion to the Virgin Mary, this warm-hearted, strong-willed man of inexhaustible energies created in Rome, Italy a world-wide Marian organization, in Poland a "Town of Mary", and in Nagasaki, Japan a Marian center.

While he was a political prisoner at the Nazi Auschwitz concentration camp, he shared with his fellow prisoners a spiritual strength and serenity, which inspired in them the patience, understanding and endurance to bear their cross of inflicted injustice.

In August of 1941, out of compassion for the family of a fellow prisoner, Francis Gajowniczek, who in reprisal for the escape of a prisoner was compelled to die by starvation, Father Kolbe begged and obtained permission to die that painful way for Mr. Gajowniczek. His ashes, along with those of the other four million victims, were strewn over the Auschwitz swamps. The beneficiary of Father Kolbe's heroic act survived the ordeals of concentration camps and is pictured on this page, together with the builder of the Carmelite Shrines, viewing our statue during his visit in 1975.



credidimus caritati

Former prisoners of European concentration camps have built this monument. Their names (some with prison numbers which they still have impressed in their skin) appear at the base of the statue. Fr. Kolbe's hand, outstretched towards the Grotto of Mary, indicates his great devotion to Her. With the other hand, he gives his heart to his fellow men. Ashes from Auschwitz have been placed in the heart-shaped urn.

SACRED HEART STATUE

(Shrine nr. 7 on Location Map)

After circling the monastery building and crossing the parking lot, at the north entrance you will see at our gates Christ with outstretched arms, inviting you to partake of His love, while at His feet the Archangel Michael warns of the tragic consequences of love refused.

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL

(Shrine nr. 8 on Location Map)

The fountain of Evangelists is located at the east side of the monastery building. The elevated Scapular Madonna looks graciously upon the pilgrims who come to honor the "Queen Beauty of Carmel".

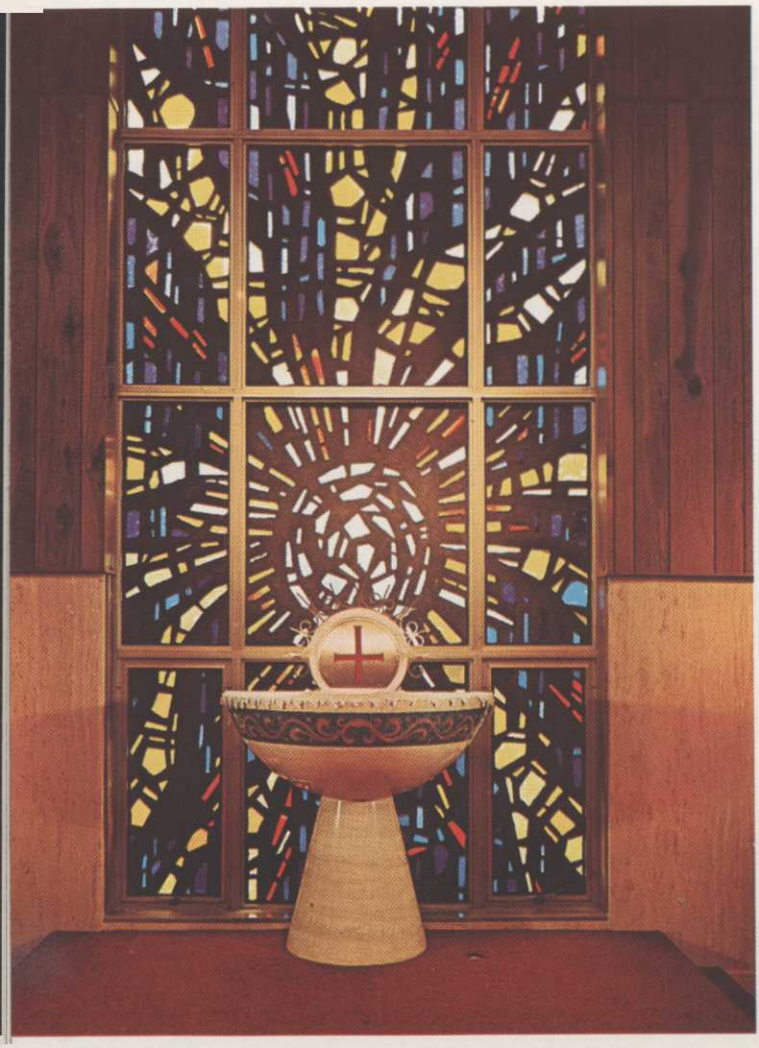
The Scapular in Her hand reminds us of the beautiful custom of wearing a cloth—or a medal-scapular as a sign of placing ourselves under Her prayerful, motherly protection.

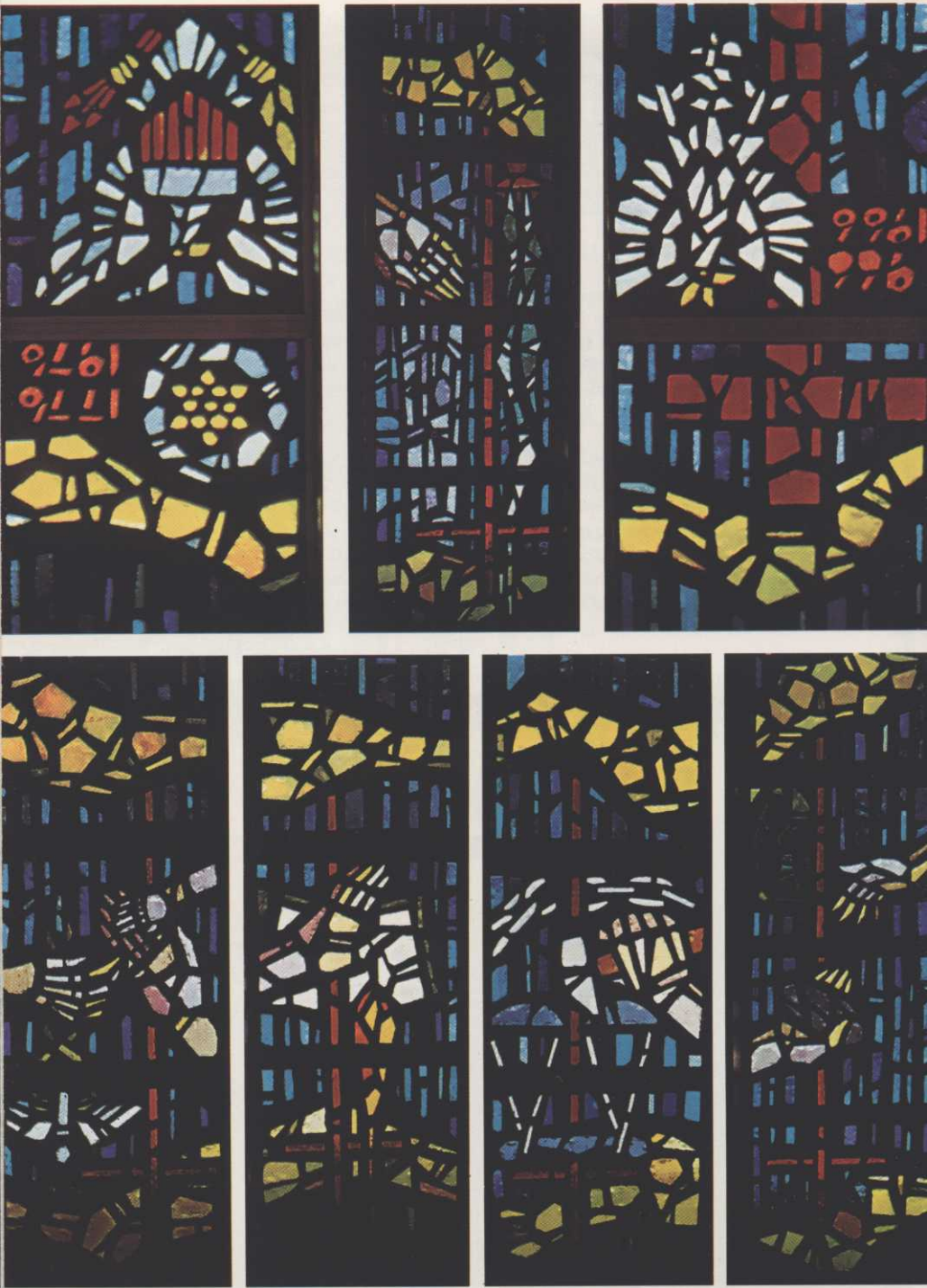
The Carmelite Order has been instrumental in spreading this pious custom throughout the Catholic world.

NEW CHURCH

(Shrine nr. 9 on Location Map)

At the south end of the parking lot is located the new church. Sun rays emanate from Christ in the tabernacle to inspire us to a life of charity and give us support and strength to perform the works of mercy represented to you in the side windows. To your left you see: a loaf of bread given to the hungry; justice given to all after breaking chains of prejudice on human minds and hearts; and instruction given to those ignorant of faith. To your right you see the following works of mercy: praying for the living and the dead; being a peacemaker; and taking care of orphans and the elderly.





THE MURAL

(nr. 9 cd.)

The enormous mural on the rear wall (700 square feet) shows the tree of charity growing on earth and bearing fruit in eternity. Heaven, the "celestial Jerusalem", where according to St. John's vision (Apocalypse 21, 23.) the Lamb of God, like a sun shines on its happy inhabitants, is reached by hands filled with works of mercy.

The eagle symbolizes St. John and farsighted people who, conscious of life's test — charity— do practice it. On the contrary, the dragon fly which flies from flower to flower to take in all possible pleasure, and its bulging eyes, indicate shortsighted people, who do not think of eternity and the purpose of life — charity — but selfishly take in all earthly pleasures. Obviously, they will never make it to heaven. The small gold fish running away from the dragon fly represents our youth, who quite often for a short period embrace this kind of philosophy, but later on join the "wise" full-grown fish, symbols of christians, who while still on earth, try to be as close as possible to Christ's inspiration.

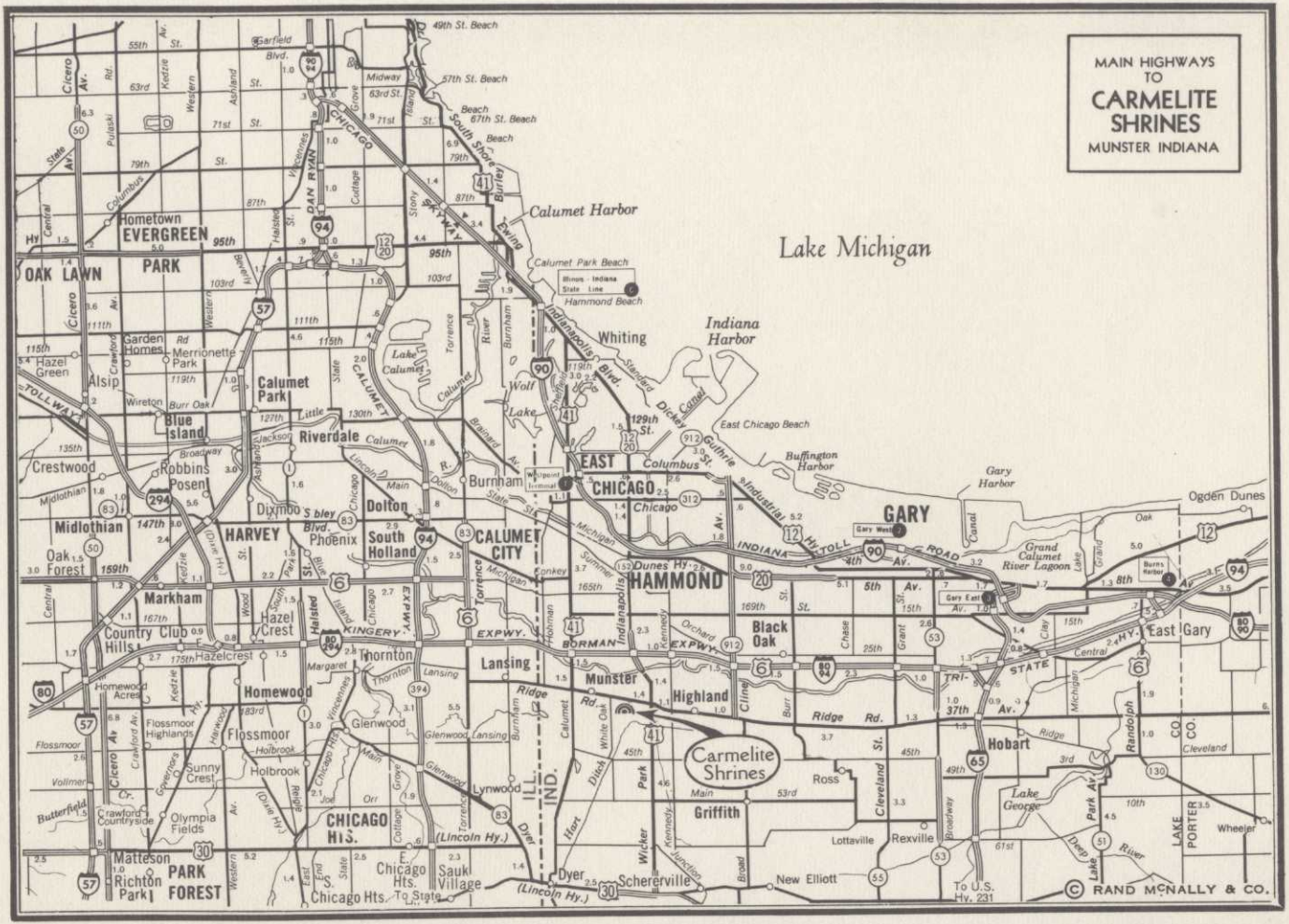
With this thought—charity as the purpose of life—we leave our visitors. It is our fervent hope that in visiting our Shrines you will find bountiful inspiration and a new awareness and appreciation for the natural wonders and abundant beauty of nature; and that in your hearts you will carry away an experience never to be forgotten, which in essence will serve to bring you closer to God.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

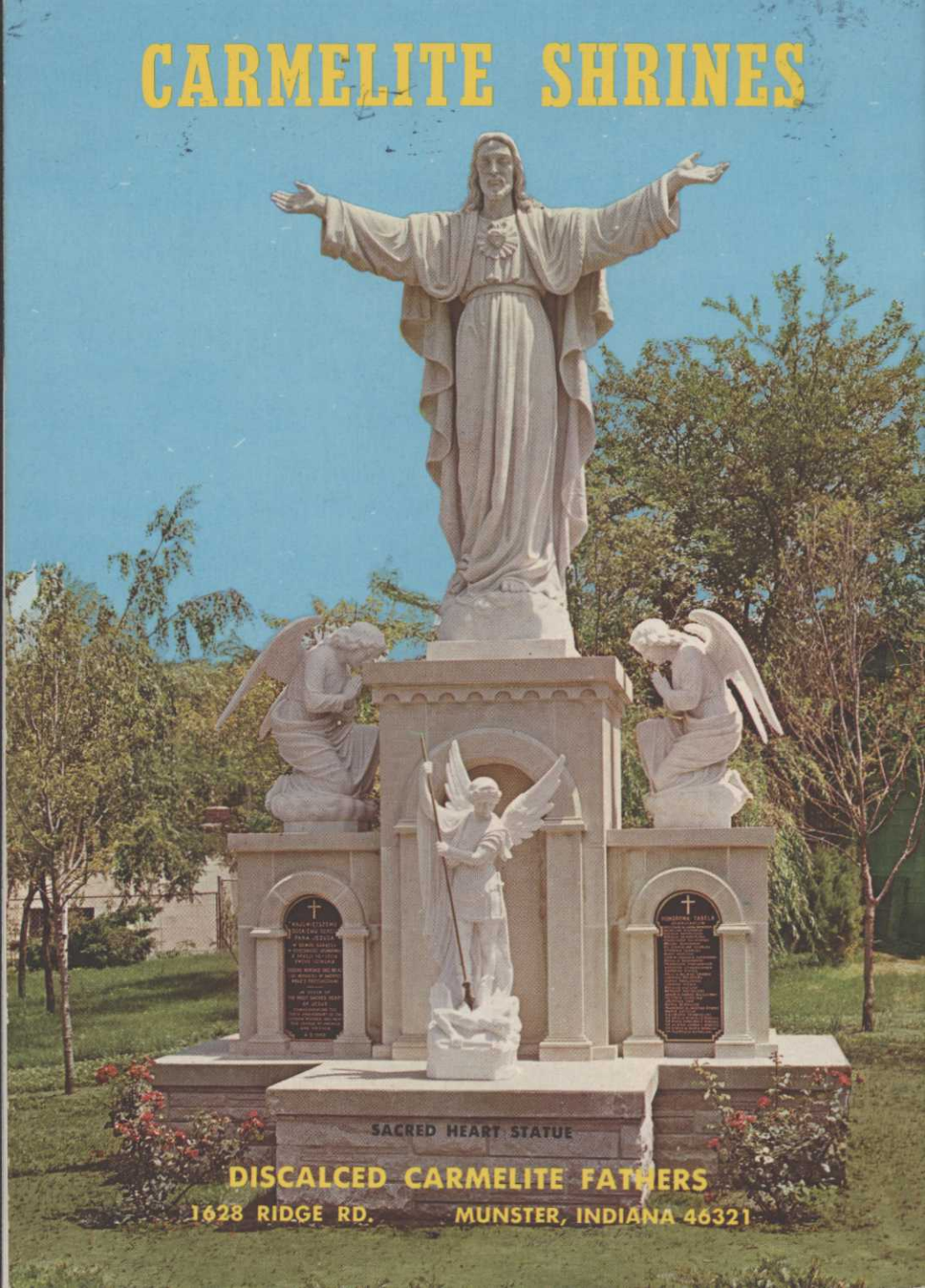
(Other facilities, such as the DINING HALL, GIFT SHOP, public telephone, washrooms are located in the same building as Shrine nr. 9.)

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

These Shrines are offered to America and its people
as a small but loving contribution
of the Polish-American Carmelites


MAIN HIGHWAYS
TO
CARMELITE
SHRINES
MUNSTER INDIANA
Lake Michigan
Calumet Harbor
Indiana Harbor
Carmelite Shrines
Hometown
EVERGREEN
PARK
OAK LAWN
Blue Island
Riverdale
Calumet Park
Crestwood
Robbins
Posen
Midlothian
Oak Forest
Dixmoor
Dolton
HARVEY
Phoenix
South Holland
CALUMET CITY
Burnham
EAST CHICAGO
Whiting
GARY
Gary Harbor
Buffington Harbor
Ogden Dunes
HAMMOND
Dunes Hy.
Markham
Country Club Hills
Hazel Crest
Homewood
Flossmoor
Thornton
Lansing
Munster
Highland
Black Oak
East Gary
Hobart
Griffith
Lake George
Ross
Lottaville
Rexville
New Elliott
Schererville
Dyer
Sauk Village
Chicago Hts.
E. Chicago Hts.
CHICAGO HTS.
Matteson
PARK FOREST
Richton Park
Olympia Fields
Crawford Countryside
Sunny Crest
Holbrook
Glenwood
Lynwood
Alsip
Garden Homes
Merrionette Park
Wireton
Burr Oak
Midway
Beach
Hammond Beach
Calumet Park Beach
East Chicago Beach
49th St. Beach
57th St. Beach
67th St. Beach
South Shore
Burley
Ewing
Story
Halsted
Vincennes
Cottage
Grove
Western
Ashland
Kedzie
Pulaski
Cicero
Columbus
Crawford
Torrence
Burnham
Lake Calumet
Wolf Lake
Little Calumet R.
Grand Calumet River Lagoon
Burns Harbor
Indianapolis Blvd.
Dickey
Guthrie
Industrial
Canal
Chase
Grant
Clay
Randolph
Michigan
Central
Cleveland
Broadway
Park Av.
Deep River
Lake
Wicker
Kennedy
Junction
Broad
Hart
Ditch
White Oak
Burr
Cline
Orchard
Kennedy
Hohman
Indianapolis
Summer
Conkey
Torrence
Michigan
Lansing
Ridge
Glenwood
Main
Joe Orr
Chicago Hts.
Vollmer
Flossmoor
Holbrook
Butterfield
Sauk Trail
Dixie Hy.
Lincoln Hy.
Dixie Hy.
Kingery Expwy.
Bishop Ford Expwy.
Borman Expwy.
Tri-State
Indiana Toll Road
Skyway
Dan Ryan
Calumet
Little Calumet
Midlothian
Blue Island
Kedzie
Western
Ashland
Halsted
Vincennes
Cottage Grove
South Shore
Burley
Ewing
Story

CARMELITE SHRINES



SACRED HEART STATUE

DISCALCED CARMELITE FATHERS
1628 RIDGE RD. MUNSTER, INDIANA 46321